

book, set forth facts and principles commonly accepted among pathologists as proven; or, if not as yet accepted, at least a statement to that effect should be made. Contrary to this the author frequently, and often at length, philosophizes upon personal theories not accepted by the pathological world before being submitted as proper text-book matter. Examples to point are the "gastric hair" and "colds in the kidney." Especially to be deplored is the discouragement of orderly and routine methods in performing post-mortems. To one who has performed 4000 autopsies, order may be unnecessary; but to students and occasional obductionists who outnumber the 4000 class 4000 to 1, and for whom the book is supposedly intended, the advice is wrong and rigid adherence thereto unsafe.

Apart from the technical aspect of the book we quote verbatim as follows: "L. died in a hospital of heroin poisoning, and great was the indignation when I pointed to the facial contracture and then cut out an apoplexy" (page 109). And again: "Thirty years ago, while at school, I took pictures, with a sixteen-dollar outfit, that I would be willing to have compared with some that take prizes today" (page 555). An additional space would permit multiplications along similar lines almost *ad lib.* Most certainly the work would make far better reading did not the author go so far out of his way to unnecessarily, uselessly, and indiscriminately "knock" his colleagues (not alone the pathologist, but anatomist, clinician, and general medical literature as well) and keep himself so constantly before the reader. And this applies whether the work be considered as text-book or monograph.

The photographs are uniformly excellent, and by them the author has shown himself the consummate artist and skilled technician; many original devices are shown from time to time indicating real mechanical genius, and the part on medico-legal postmortems brings out many valuable points. But beyond these latter it is difficult to go.

F. S. W.

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THE DUCTLESS GLANDULAR DISEASES. By WILHELM FALTA, Vienna. Translated and edited by MILTON K. MEYERS, M.D. Pp. 658; 101 illustrations. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston's Son & Co., 1915.

If anyone still doubts the truth of the old saying that words were given to man to hide his thoughts, let him borrow the American edition of Falt's work and spend an evening with it.

As a whole the book is a valuable collection of material concerning all phases of the disorders of the ductless glands, and over sixty pages of references to the literature evidence its painstaking preparation. However, our knowledge of the ductless glands today does

not lend itself to finished presentation, and much confusion and contradiction is still inherent to the subject. This complexity is made worse by the author's style, which is unpardonably verbose and discursive, and renders the reading of the book a very doubtful pleasure. Its value to the average reader is uncertain, for it does not pay to work an ore of less than a certain percentage of gold to the ton, and in the reviewer's opinion the gold in the ore in this instance runs perilously low.

But whatever our estimate of the work in the original German, there can be no doubt of its greatly lessened value in the American edition, for in the translating and publishing many further difficulties for the reader have been introduced.

To him, however, who decides to dig in this American edition can be promised some precious gems of careless proofreading. Every few pages the tedious text is enlivened by a sentence the meaning of which has been beclouded by the substitution for the original of a word similar in appearance if not in meaning; thus confer instead of compare (page 89), proves instead of paves (page 51), and placed instead of played (page 36). Similarly can be explained such enlightening statements as: "On account of the marked excretion of sweat, malaria sometimes occur" (page 82), and "The diagnosis made was congenital abscess of the uterus . . ." (p. 438), while the legend to an illustration on page 577 gives a unique translation for "Fettgewebes." It reads, "Inflammatory alteration of the feet-tissue in a case of adipositas dolorosa." Grammar is often ignored and the verb is, as a rule, firmly entrenched at the end of each sentence. The spelling is good except in personal names thus: Hayem is met as Hajem, Morawitz as Morowitz, and C. v. Noorden as C. V. Noorden.

Naturally one's sympathy is aroused for the author whose work has been published for American readers in such a slipshod manner, and one is also a little sorry for the readers, but they at least are free agents, and have the cure for such publications in their own hands.

O. H. P. P.

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HYSTERIA AND ACCIDENT COMPENSATION, NATURE OF HYSTERIA AND THE LESION OF THE POST-LITIGATION RESULTS. By FRANCIS X. DERCUM, M.D. Pp. 120. Philadelphia: The Geo. T. Bisel Company, 1916.

THIS short essay on hysteria and accident compensation is apparently intended for the legal profession and as such it presents the subject very well. The author believes that in most instances in which nervous conditions follow accident that the symptoms are largely and in most cases altogether the result of the litigation and that as soon as the litigation is ended all symptoms disappear.